

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2004

The Honorable Colin Powell
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

In light of recent allegations that members of Saudi Arabia's internal security forces may have been complicit in the brutal kidnapping and murder of Paul M. Johnson, Jr., I am writing to respectfully request that you pressure Saudi Arabian officials to remove Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdel Aziz immediately from his position in charge of Saudi efforts to investigate and apprehend terrorists and people who support them.

The murder of Mr. Johnson was a heinous crime, and in order to properly serve justice and ensure that the government of Saudi Arabia is making the utmost effort to combat terrorism, any allegations of participation in this crime by Saudi Arabian security officials must be fully and credibly investigated. In order to allow such an investigation to take place, I urge the US government to use its influence with the Saudi royal family to ensure that a more credible official is given that responsibility.

Prince Nayef's lack of commitment to fighting terrorism is nothing short of appalling. He is the supervisor general of the Saudi Committee for the Al Quds Intifada, which raises money for the families of suicide bombers. He has accused the United States of harboring hostility towards Arabs and Muslims "because of the influence of the Zionist lobby in the United States which seeks to distort the image of Arabs and Muslims", was quoted saying that it was impossible that 15 Saudis participated in the September 11 attacks, and instead blamed unnamed Zionists for them. Prince Nayef's statement came within days of the Saudi US envoy officially confirming that 15 of the 19 September 11th hijackers were Saudi nationals. These comments were recently echoed by Prince Nayef's affirmation of claims that Zionists were behind the murder of six western contractors in Saudi Arabia and statement that "Al-Qaeda is backed by Israel and Zionism."

Prince Nayef, also has a well-documented history of ignoring evidence and hindering investigations of terrorist attacks against Americans. During the 1990s, he single-handedly prevented the trial of 13 Saudis indicted for killing 19 Americans in the bombing of the Khobar Towers by refusing to turn the men over to the United States. Prince Nayef's consistent refusal to grant US officials access to key suspects that have knowledge of past and potential attacks against American targets, including in one instance a poison gas attack against New York City's subway system, disqualify him as a partner in the war on terror.

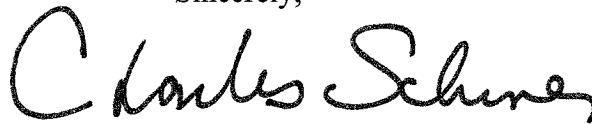
The recent murder of Mr. Johnson and allegations that Saudi security forces were complicit in the crime makes Prince Nayef's dismissal more crucial than ever. The charge

that Saudi security officials provided police uniforms and vehicles to terrorists in order to facilitate the kidnapping and murder of an American citizen are of the most serious nature imaginable and must be investigated in a thorough, complete, and credible manner.

In light of Prince Nayef's record I do not believe such an investigation can properly proceed while he is still Interior Minister. His history of supporting terrorist financing and obstructing previous investigations of terror attacks against Americans will irrevocably undermine the credibility of any investigation into charges of Saudi security force cooperation with the terrorists and thwart efforts to see justice done. This lack of credibility will also cast further doubts on the ability and willingness of the Saudi Arabian government to actively join the United States in fighting the war on terror. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the United States seek to remove him immediately from his anti-terror responsibilities and encourage the Saudi royal family to select a more cooperative official to serve in that important post.

I thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate